



State Community Health Worker Advisory Committee Meeting

October 9, 2020



Welcome and Roll Call

Opening Remarks – Cheryl De Pinto

**COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force - Surviving
Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Committee
Service Provider Survey - Deb Donohue**

**CHW Certification Training Program
Accreditation - Revisions to Practicum
Accommodation during COVID-19**

September 24, 2020 CHW Advisory Committee Meeting

Highlights:

1. COMAR regulation and accreditation application process for the Practicum component of CHW training programs
2. Background information
3. Draft language for the Practicum accommodation
4. Discussion
5. Votes on next steps

CHW Certification Training Program Practicum Accommodation - Background

1. A CHW certification training program shall verify successful completion of an additional supervised 40-hour practicum by a student. ([COMAR 10.68.02.03.A\(2\)](#))
2. As a result of COVID-19:
 - There have been changes in the education, training, and employment venues
 - There is a concern that some CHW students may have difficulty finding a Practicum, but given how valuable CHWs are in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, they may be able to find employment as a CHW.

CHW Accredited Training Program – Proposed COVID-19 Accommodation to Practicum – DRAFT (Presented 9.24.20)

During the COVID-19 state of emergency is there a recommendation that an accredited CHW certification training program may accept 40 hours of employment as a CHW / another similar position by a currently enrolled student in place of the 40-hour supervised Practicum, if:

- There is a documented good-faith attempt by the student to secure an unpaid Practicum position/internship that was unsuccessful;
- The employment is supervised;
- The employment position requires proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies;
- The accredited CHW training program provides to the Department a statement ensuring the employment is in alignment with all Practicum requirements of the accredited CHW certification training program as detailed in their application;
- The employer notifies the accredited CHW certification training program that all components of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application have been completed; and
- The conditions listed above are satisfied before the student receives a document of successful completion from the accredited CHW certification training program.

CHW Accredited Training Program – Proposed COVID-19 Accommodation to Practicum – discussion points

1. Confirmation and documentation that the employment required proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and met all Practicum components of the training program
2. Determining the positions/job titles would qualify
3. Clarity on when the hours of employment need to be completed

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Two motions were voted on and approved:

1. The overarching components of the accommodation for the Practicum component of CHW certification training programs as detailed during the meeting was approved in principle.
2. The Department will provide additional language to the accommodation including information on documentation associated with that language to this Advisory Committee before moving it forward.

CHW Accredited Training Program – Proposed COVID-19 Accommodation to Practicum – REVISED DRAFT

During the COVID-19 state of emergency is there a recommendation that an accredited CHW certification training program may accept employment as a CHW / another similar position by a currently enrolled student in place of the supervised 40-hour Practicum required by COMAR 10.68.02.03, if:

- There is a documented good-faith attempt by the student to secure an unpaid Practicum position/internship that was unsuccessful;
- The accredited CHW certification training program ensures the supervised employment position will require proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and the employer will meet all components of the Practicum detailed in the CHW training program accreditation application;
- The employer provides documentation to the accredited CHW certification training program that the CHW demonstrated proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and completed the number of supervised hours, including any additional components, of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application;

CHW Accredited Training Program – Proposed COVID-19 Accommodation to Practicum – REVISED DRAFT (continued)

- The accredited CHW certification training program maintains supporting documentation that the supervised employment position will require proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and the employer will meet all components of the Practicum detailed in the CHW training program accreditation application for period of time described in their accreditation application for Records Maintenance;
- The accredited CHW certification training program maintains documentation from the employer that the CHW demonstrated proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and completed the number of supervised hours, including any additional components, of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application, for the period of time described in their accreditation application for Records Maintenance;

CHW Accredited Training Program – Proposed COVID-19 Accommodation to Practicum – REVISED DRAFT (continued)

- The conditions listed above are satisfied while the student is enrolled in the CHW certification training program and before the student receives a document of successful completion from the accredited CHW certification training program; and
- The accredited CHW certification training program reports the number of students, description of employer type, and type of employment position to the Department quarterly or within 30 days of graduating a cohort.

Open Discussion – REVISED DRAFT Accommodation

1. Documentation of the good faith effort to find a practicum
2. Other items...
 - a. Remove the word “unpaid” from the first bullet point

REVISED DRAFT Accommodation - Vote

VOTE:

During the COVID-19 state of emergency, is there a recommendation that an accredited community health worker (CHW) certification training program may accept employment as a CHW / another similar position by a currently enrolled student in place of the supervised 40-hour Practicum required by COMAR 10.68.02.03, if the revised conditions listed above are met?

*Note – the word “unpaid” will be removed from the first bullet point

Certification Contacts and Links

Maryland CHW Certification Website

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Home.aspx>

Maryland CHW Phone Line

410-767-5971

Maryland CHW Email Addresses

MDH.CHWApplications@Maryland.gov

Contacts

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Adjournment

Thank you for joining us today and for your advisement!

We wish you well!

The CHW Team